



Rule Changes and News as of January 14, 2003

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

This flyer alerts you to news from the Texas Eastern federal court. Downloadable current versions of the local rules and other pertinent documents are available from our Internet site, located at www.txed.uscourts.gov. Here is the news:

Many court documents are now available online via an upgraded PACER service. Counsel and litigants now can access thousands of scanned civil case court documents via the PACER service. Most judicial orders and judgments, complaints, answers and motions filed over the last few years are available online. The documents are accessed by clicking on a blue "hyperlink" contained in the PACER docket entry. They can then be viewed, saved and/or printed. The cost of accessing the information is 7 cents per page. Further details are available from our Internet site, located at www.txed.uscourts.gov.

Spring bench/bar meeting set. The annual bench/bar meeting with the Texas Eastern Federal Bar Association has been set for Thursday and Friday, May 22-23, 2003 at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston. Details are available on the court's web site.

Several local rules were amended at the recommendation of our attorney advisory committee. Highlights of General Order 02-11, filed December 20, 2002 include:

- Parties are encouraged to file documents in the division in which the case is pending. If a party files documents in another division, a stamped, addressed envelope for mailing to the proper division must be provided (Local Rule CV-5 (f)).
- The certificate of conference rule was amended to include motions *in limine* in the list of motions exempt from the "confer prior to filing" requirement. Motions for admission *pro hac vice* and for judgment of acquittal in criminal cases were removed from the exemption list (Local Rule CV-7 (h)).
- Original papers offered for filing should not include tabs or dividers. This rule makes it easier for the clerk's office to electronically scan the original document. However, the copy of the original that is required to be filed for the court's use, if voluminous, should have dividers or tabs, as should all copies sent to opposing counsel (Local Rule CV-10 (b)). Tabbing makes it easier for judges and opposing counsel to find documents in a voluminous filing.
- The clerk of court must wait 20 days from the date of an order transferring or remanding a case before sending the case file to the transferee court. This allows our court to retain jurisdiction to rule on a timely motion for reconsideration, in the event one is filed (Local Rule CV-83 (b)).
- Attorneys seeking admission *pro hac vice* now must do so via an application form rather than a motion. A downloadable form is available on the court's web site. The completed application must be accompanied by a \$25 local fee. The application will be acted upon with dispatch by the clerk's office on the court's behalf (Local Rule AT-1 (d)).
- Sections G and H of the Joint Final Pretrial Order (Appendix D to the Local Rules) were amended to conform the lists of witnesses and exhibits to Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(a)(3).
- The sample scheduling order (Appendix L to the Local Rules) was amended to allow the court to incorporate limits on the number of dispositive motions that can be filed.